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Submitted to the House Committee on Homeland Security

Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications

United States House of Representatives

Assessing Central Indiana's Preparedness for a Mass Casualty Event

August 6, 2013

Chairman Brooks, Ranking Member Payne, Senator Donnelly, Representatives Walorski and Young, and Members of the Subcommittee, it is an honor to appear before you today. My name is John Hill, and I am the Executive Director of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). Thank you for inviting me to testify on Central Indiana's preparedness for a mass casualty event, and for your interest in this critically important issue. I would also like to thank Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V Administrator, Mr. Velasquez, Sheriff Bowen, Chief Orusa, Mr. Chad Priest and other panel members for their ongoing partnership with IDHS' preparedness and response activities. The Indiana Department of Homeland Security is committed to providing statewide leadership, responsiveness to our public safety professionals and subject matter expertise to continually develop the state's public safety capabilities while working for the wellbeing of our citizens, property, and economy. The agency was founded in April 2005, with the merger of the State Emergency Management Agency, State Fire Marshal's Office, Office of the State Building Commissioner, Public Safety Training Institute, and the Counter Terrorism and Security Council.

Indiana's Governor, Michael R. Pence, is committed to a coordinated public safety system in Indiana. The goal of this system is to exhibit the maximum efficiency of primary public safety agencies in the state, while removing unnecessary redundancies where they exist and employing federal, state, and local resources in a harmonized fashion.

To better provide for the needs of the state, it is essential for us to constantly evaluate our plans, preparedness, processes and procedures. Governor Pence on his first day in office directed me to undertake a thorough review of Indiana's emergency preparedness and response capabilities and report the findings to him. Realizing that an objective and external observation and assessment of IDHS would provide important feedback, the agency engaged Witt O'Brien to identify weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. Witt O'Brien is an internationally recognized authority in crisis and disaster management. The assessment included review by public safety experts to evaluate IDHS and other state and local organizations, which served as the basis for findings and recommendations to improve Indiana's readiness. Witt O'Brien recently submitted a draft of its report concerning the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. The report is being reviewed. Implementation will commence in the next month to improve Indiana's emergency management practices.

Federal, State, Local Partnership

The State of Indiana has spent considerable time, effort and resources in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergency situations. Our state is organized into ten distinct districts, each a partner of the other nine, and all uniquely prepared for emergencies. Each county has its own emergency management agency or emergency manager, with significant training, preparedness, and mitigation opportunities for emergencies and disasters. Routinely, counties join together to train for and respond to emergencies in their respective district. This multi-layered approach—federal, state, district, county and city—creates multiple levels of partnership and preparedness.

We have excellent coordination with our state and local partners—organizations like the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana National Guard, Indiana State Police, and county emergency management agencies, local police and fire departments, among others. In conjunction with federal partners, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Defense (DOD), we work to create a safer, better prepared state for Hoosiers.

Emergency Response

Just as public safety requires the coordination of many multi-faceted and fluid elements to be successful, there are several functional aspects to the diverse IDHS organization. One high profile area, especially during times of emergency or disaster, is led by the emergency response and recovery division, which monitors situations around the state and provides coordination of Indiana's considerable resources to assist whenever and wherever needed.

To coordinate Indiana's significant resources, we have a state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that is staffed 24 hours a day each day of the year. The EOC serves not only as a communications hub for ongoing public safety coordination throughout the state, but also as a command and control center during large-scale disasters where all necessary parties are represented with their respective emergency support function (ESF) linkage. ESF functions include both governmental and private representatives.

The EOC facility has been recently toured by responders from other states and countries, including representatives from the Australian Consulate in Chicago, and public safety professionals from Great Britain, Israel, and South Korea.

Disaster Recovery

Long after the immediate response by emergency workers, the work of recovery for a community can be daunting. Homes and businesses may be affected; and, completing damage assessments is an incredibly important process. Once again, this necessitates careful coordination among federal, state and local authorities. These assessments are crucial to determining eligibility for individual and public assistance from FEMA.

We have learned that local emergency managers need assistance from the state to properly understand and administer the assessment for damaged property. Chairman Brooks, you saw, firsthand as you toured flood-ravaged areas in April of this year, how many of your constituents suffered property loss, both individually and as part of their community infrastructure. As devastating as it was, the millions of dollars of loss did not qualify for federal assistance. In recent years, the threshold to qualify for federal disaster aid has steadily increased. Indiana must increasingly shoulder more of the financial burden for our residents. Fortunately, the Indiana General Assembly anticipated this and established a State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF) which provides for limited financial assistance to individuals and communities under certain conditions. As a result of the April 2013 flooding, Governor Pence declared an emergency for affected counties and the residents and communities were eligible to apply for SDRF compensation. Disbursements for the 2013 central Indiana flooding will be the largest ever awarded for disaster relief using the SDRF.

An integral aspect of response and recovery is mitigation, which seeks to reduce or eliminate threats and risks of known hazards. Recovery and mitigation efforts go hand-in-hand with one another. Recovery operations evaluate damage that resulted from a disaster, and determine next steps to assist individuals. From that and other assessments, our mitigation efforts are born. By understanding the potential damage in a given disaster, we can better prepare for them and work to find ways to reduce or even eliminate risks associated with them. The Indiana Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provide a base and framework for mitigation efforts.

Training and Exercise

Training and participation in simulated exercises is another key component to the IDHS' ability to coordinate the state's disaster preparedness. Exercises can range from seminars and drills, to full scale exercises involving hundreds of individuals from many areas of the state. In fact, IDHS has organized exercises that have included multiple states, and even observers from foreign countries. In the last three years, IDHS has organized the training of more than 37,000 responders in classes that have connections to mass casualty, weapons of mass destruction and CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive).

The Muscatatuck Urban Training Center is a highly regarded training complex that provides unique learning situations, and is in our own backyard. Having the ability to configure buildings or collapsed structures into real-life scenarios with role players not only improves the training environment, but also provides emergency responders with vital experience that exceeds a traditional classroom training environment.

During one recent full-scale exercise, we had an international visitor in emergency management indicate he had never seen a facility like Muscatatuck in his considerable experience. The facility is used by emergency responders from around the world and includes military and civilian role players. Indiana is remarkably poised to not only better equip our responders but to also encourage regional and national training activities that are essential when faced with large-scale disasters such as an earthquake or WMD event. Even as we are now having this hearing, nearly 7,000 members of the U.S. military from NORTHCOM are engaged with local responders at the Muscatatuck venue in an exercise called Vibrant Response. Next week, Ohio authorities will deploy 150 responders and officials to coordinate a simulated WMD attack. Members of IDHS will be observing the exercise to learn how to adapt and apply our plans to different emergencies

that may arise, and to better coordinate regional response that would be required should central Indiana experience a mass casualty event. I have directed our staff to fully participate in the Vibrant Response exercise in 2014 and 2015.

During my experience in working on Hurricane Katrina relief in 2005 and coordinating numerous activities with the U.S. military active duty, reserve and National Guard forces, I saw how critical it is to understand not only the resources and capability that active duty forces bring to large-scale disasters, but also how coordination must be carefully integrated with civilian authorities for maximum effectiveness.

A variety of training sessions are used to supplement exercises. These sessions can range from search and rescue and emergency medical services training, to hazardous materials (HAZMAT), radiological emergency, and terrorism and weapons of mass destruction (WMD) training. Our first responders have a wide array of learning tools available.

Regular interaction and coordination within the public safety community, along with extensive training utilizing the National Incident Management System (NIMS), contributes to our state's response to emergency situations. For example, just in the past month, I authorized more than a dozen of our local responders to travel to wild fires in Alaska and California to better provide them with training to understand their importance in coordinating disaster response and organizing resources for appropriate deployment, all the while working within the NIMS framework. It is worthwhile to reiterate that the availability of federal training grant dollars, state coordination and local participation makes such shadowing/learning opportunities possible. Indiana is committed to an integrated approach in support to our local community emergency managers and responders.

Strategies and Tactical Plans

Planning is another important aspect to IDHS. The planning division is charged with establishing the strategies and tactical plans used throughout the state for emergency management, but it also includes multiple disciplines, including the state level agencies of the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana State Police, Indiana National Guard, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Correction and Indiana Department of Environmental Management; local agencies including fire, law enforcement, emergency management, emergency medical service and more; and federal agencies, such as U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Department of Energy and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

IDHS has actively participated in the preparation, review and publication of more than fifty plans or annexes to prepare for a variety of emergencies. Such plans require regular updates and validation. Our planning division is required to not only develop comprehensive emergency plans but must engage in the training and exercise of plans to ensure what is intended is being achieved.

Grants Support Local and State Agencies

Another important function within the IDHS Planning Division is grant management. Grant management works to effectively administer funding to local communities as provided either from the state or the federal government. These funds provided to IDHS are distributed throughout the state for training, exercise, equipment and personnel. In 2012, more than \$11 million in grant funding was awarded. More than \$7.3 million of that total, or about 64.3%, went to locals, which includes support to county emergency management agencies, by paying half of the cost of directors and, in the counties where there are additional staff, 50% of the cost of assistant directors and support staff is reimbursed. More than \$4 million, 35.7%, went elsewhere in the state. Even money that goes to the state is used to benefit and provide for locals. Currently 43 IDHS employees are grant funded, for a total of more than \$2.7 million annually. The majority of these positions directly support training, exercise, planning, and emergency response and recovery. Their work is ultimately for the benefit of local emergency response efforts.

IDHS receives funding from four main federal grants: the Homeland Security Grant Program (broken into the State Homeland Security Program and the Urban Areas Security Initiative), Emergency Management Performance Grant, Nonprofit Security Grant Program, and Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grant Program.

The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System (NPS) by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) of a secure and resilient nation. Delivering core capabilities requires the combined effort of the whole community, rather than the exclusive effort of any single organization or level of government. This grant provides planning, equipment, training, exercise, and management and administrative funding to emergency prevention and preparedness to the State of Indiana. This funding has been used to support our district task forces. We are in the process of evaluating the 2014 HSGP grant funding proposals and will align any approved requests with the agency strategic plan and Governor Pence's Roadmap for Indiana.

The purpose of the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program is to assist state, local, territorial, and tribal governments in preparing for all hazards. Title VI of the Stafford Act authorizes FEMA to make grants for the purpose of providing a system of emergency preparedness for the protection of life and property in the United States from hazards and to vest responsibility for emergency preparedness jointly in the federal government, states, and their political subdivisions. The federal government, through the EMPG Program, provides necessary direction, coordination, and guidance, and provides necessary assistance, as authorized in this title so that a comprehensive emergency preparedness system exists at all levels for all hazards. We use the EMPG primarily to support county emergency managers.

The Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP) provides funding support for target-hardening activities to nonprofit organizations that are at high risk of a terrorist attack and are located within one of the specific UASI (Urban Areas Security Initiative)-eligible urban areas.

The Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program is intended to provide financial and technical assistance as well as direction and guidance to enhance state and local hazardous materials emergency planning and training. The HMEP Grant Program

distributes fees collected from shippers and carriers of hazardous materials to emergency responders for HAZMAT training and to Local Emergency Planning Committees (LEPCs) for HAZMAT planning. IDHS uses this grant to advance our CBRNE training and risk prevention efforts.

A breakdown of these grants since 2010 is as follows.

	2010	2011	2012	2013
HSGP – SHSP	\$11,326,441	\$5,663,221	\$2,801,316	\$3,459,364
HSGP – UASI	7,104,700	0	1,250,000	0
EMPG	6,562,747	6,529,870	6,749,053	6,592,684
NSGP	0	0	28,161	0
HMEP	512,532	512,532	537,270	536,745
TOTAL	\$25,506,420	\$12,705,623	\$11,365,800	\$10,588,793
\$ CHANGE (prev. year)		-\$12,800,797	-\$1,339,823	-\$777,077
% CHANGE (prev. year)		-50.18%	-10.54%	-6.83%

Fire and Building Safety

Also under IDHS's organizational umbrella is the State Fire Marshal, who leads IDHS's fire and building safety. This includes commercial building construction plan review, general building inspection and specific responsibility for the compliance of elevators and boiler and pressure vessels. Inspections also occur for annual festivals, fairs and other entertainment venues, including amusement rides. Arson investigators are also placed throughout the state to assist with local fire investigations when help is requested.

IDHS' certification branch administers the licenses for firefighters, emergency medical services personnel and conducts ambulance inspections.

Mass Casualty Response

The agency provides assistance with statewide HAZMAT and CBRNE response and expertise. Many local communities have highly qualified HAZMAT responders and central Indiana is fortunate to have considerable expertise when needed. Having capabilities such as CBRNE will be crucial during a mass casualty incident as a result of either an accident or terrorist attack.

With volunteers from a variety of groups in the medical, mental health and funeral director communities, the Indiana Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit (DPMU) is maintained by IDHS and is designed to relieve overwhelmed morgues where a disaster has occurred. It has all of the necessary tools which are required during such a mass casualty.

Another organization crucial to the state's planning and response is the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI). OFBCI works to link organizations to those in need by using grants and services. It advocates for volunteerism, including faith-based initiatives which make a difference in the community both before and after a crisis has endangered a community. The OFBCI offers support for Emergency Support Function 14, Long-Term Community

Recovery. It also works with the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) team to provide support and relief in the aftermath of disaster situations. The combination of these two organizations assisted in harnessing the power of volunteers just last year when devastating tornadoes ripped numerous Indiana communities. Their efforts resulted in substantially lower costs, saving millions of dollars for those affected by the Southern Indiana tornado event recovery in 2012. Debris removal was an excellent example with not only volunteers, but strategic use of other state resources.

Several of these aspects come into play when working to increase our preparedness for a mass casualty incident. Over the past five years, nearly \$1.2 million in grant funding has been allocated toward preparedness, specifically for CBRNE or WMD events. From that, more than \$850,000 has assisted central Indiana. This support provides equipment to our first responders, vehicles to aid in response and recovery, and training classes and conferences for added education.

Chairman Brooks has properly identified the importance of focusing also on events that could result from terrorist activity or a consequence of man-made events. The recent tragic bombing during the Boston Marathon illustrates the need for integration and coordination among intelligence gatherers, fusion center analysts, law enforcement agencies and local responders. Following the Boston bombing, Indiana adapted planning efforts for the events in central Indiana such as the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade and 500 Mile Race. Traffic was diverted from critical infrastructure, screening techniques were employed that clearly elevated detection protocols and heightened intelligence activities all combined to improve threat identification and risk management at one of the country's largest sporting events.

Our ongoing preparedness is on three levels: federal, state, and local. At the federal level, we work with military and non-military entities to enhance safety efforts, train, exercise and plan.

Groups like FEMA and the FBI offer resources to aid in our preparation. FEMA Region V has been responsive to the needs of the state, especially during times of emergency. The FBI is a teammate of ours in CBRNE response and radiation training. The FBI also holds an annual conference on WMDs, which IDHS promotes and attends. IDHS recently held a comprehensive planning exercise involving policy leaders from IDHS, ISDH, Indiana Board of Animal Health, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Police, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, State Chemist, Department of Natural Resources, Utility Regulatory Commission and Indiana National Guard's 53rd Civil Support Team to simulate an ingestion pathway from nuclear reactor radiation release and how it could affect Indiana residents and businesses. We also have established close relationships with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy to better prepare for and understand these lead federal agencies' role in a nuclear disaster.

State partners, including the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Department of Transportation, and Indiana National Guard regularly complement and enhance IDHS' work. We not only prepare for events in the future, but also strive to secure the everyday safety of our citizens.

Local Agencies: Key to Indiana's Efforts

Local partners are really the backbone of Indiana's efforts. When an emergency or disaster occurs, local agencies and responders are the first to experience the event and they are best equipped and trained to handle the situation. Just over a week ago, Indianapolis witnessed a horrific mass casualty event with an overturned bus returning from a week of church camp. Tragically, four individuals lost their lives but a rapid and professional response by numerous fire and emergency medical personnel treated or transported over thirty injured passengers, several hospital staffs coordinated the treatment of the injured and law enforcement continues to conduct an in-depth analysis of the crash's cause. The response by professional local responders was an example of how well they have prepared for tragedy when our communities are affected.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Red Cross also perform active roles in aiding our initiatives and furthering the overall emergency preparedness of our state. The IDHS and ISDH began the development of the Indiana Disaster Medical System, intended to provide a structure and protocols for the state to support local mass casualty response. In support of the Indiana Disaster Medical System, the ISDH is in the process of procuring a 50-bed mobile hospital to provide a medical facility for communities suffering from disasters and an operating location for medical and non-medical volunteers. The ISDH has also developed the Advance Medical Supply Unit, which contains the most common types of supplies that medical personnel on the ground may need during mass casualty response. The ISDH has also nearly completed development of the new volunteer management system, SERV-IN, which will be utilized to better manage both medical and non-medical volunteers.

The Red Cross has several internal training courses for their volunteers, which closely reflect the training provided by IDHS. These courses provide information on the effects of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, CBRNE events, and mental health considerations during a WMD or terrorist event. This training makes Red Cross an important partner during times of emergency. Volunteers are necessary in a variety of roles during mass casualties and perhaps even more importantly, in providing long-term care and support for those visibly injured and others who are mentally traumatized.

IDHS, along with its partner organizations, casts a wide net over the State of Indiana. By coordinating activities and initiatives with federal, state, and local partners, IDHS is working diligently every day for Indiana.

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman Brooks, Ranking Member Payne, members of the Indiana congressional delegation in attendance, and the Members of the Subcommittee for calling this hearing today. The issues discussed here are vital to the lives not just of Hoosiers, but to all Americans. I am proud to work every day to provide for the needs of the state, and the safety of our citizens. I am committed to working with the Committee and our public safety partners to promote a safer, more secure state for all.

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We have excellent coordination with our state and local partners—organizations like the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana National Guard, Indiana State Police, and county emergency management agencies, local police and fire departments, among others. In conjunction with federal partners, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Defense (DOD), we work to create a safer, better prepared state for Hoosiers.

Emergency Response

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Long after the immediate response by emergency workers, the work of recovery for a community can be daunting. Homes and businesses may be affected; and, completing damage assessments is an incredibly important process. Once again, this necessitates careful coordination among federal, state and local authorities. These assessments are crucial to determining eligibility for individual and public assistance from FEMA.

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Training and Exercise

Training and participation in simulated exercises is another key component to the IDHS' ability to coordinate the state's disaster preparedness. Exercises can range from seminars and drills, to full scale exercises involving hundreds of individuals from many areas of the state. In fact, IDHS has organized exercises that have included multiple states, and even observers from foreign countries. In the last three years, IDHS has organized the training of more than 37,000 responders in classes that have connections to mass casualty, weapons of mass destruction and CBRNE (chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosive).

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Grants Support Local and State Agencies

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EMPG	6,562,747	6,529,870	6,749,053	6,592,684
NSGP	0	0	28,161	0
HMEP	512,532	512,532	537,270	536,745
TOTAL	\$25,506,420	\$12,705,623	\$11,365,800	\$10,588,793
\$ CHANGE (prev. year)		-\$12,800,797	-\$1,339,823	-\$777,077
% CHANGE (prev. year)		-50.18%	-10.54%	-6.83%

Fire and Building Safety

Also under IDHS's organizational umbrella is the State Fire Marshal, who leads IDHS's fire and building safety. This includes commercial building construction plan review, general building inspection and specific responsibility for the compliance of elevators and boiler and pressure vessels. Inspections also occur for annual festivals, fairs and other entertainment venues, including amusement rides. Arson investigators are also placed throughout the state to assist with local fire investigations when help is requested.

IDHS' certification branch administers the licenses for firefighters, emergency medical services personnel and conducts ambulance inspections.

Mass Casualty Response

The agency provides assistance with statewide HAZMAT and CBRNE response and expertise. Many local communities have highly qualified HAZMAT responders and central Indiana is fortunate to have considerable expertise when needed. Having capabilities such as CBRNE will be crucial during a mass casualty incident as a result of either an accident or terrorist attack.

With volunteers from a variety of groups in the medical, mental health and funeral director communities, the Indiana Disaster Portable Mortuary Unit (DPMU) is maintained by IDHS and is designed to relieve overwhelmed morgues where a disaster has occurred. It has all of the necessary tools which are required during such a mass casualty.

Another organization crucial to the state's planning and response is the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (OFBCI). OFBCI works to link organizations to those in need by using grants and services. It advocates for volunteerism, including faith-based initiatives which make a difference in the community both before and after a crisis has endangered a community. The OFBCI offers support for Emergency Support Function 14, Long-Term Community

Recovery. It also works with the Indiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) team to provide support and relief in the aftermath of disaster situations. The combination of these two organizations assisted in harnessing the power of volunteers just last year when devastating tornadoes ripped numerous Indiana communities. Their efforts resulted in substantially lower costs, saving millions of dollars for those affected by the Southern Indiana tornado event recovery in 2012. Debris removal was an excellent example with not only volunteers, but strategic use of other state resources.

Several of these aspects come into play when working to increase our preparedness for a mass casualty incident. Over the past five years, nearly \$1.2 million in grant funding has been allocated toward preparedness, specifically for CBRNE or WMD events. From that, more than \$850,000 has assisted central Indiana. This support provides equipment to our first responders, vehicles to aid in response and recovery, and training classes and conferences for added education.

Chairman Brooks has properly identified the importance of focusing also on events that could result from terrorist activity or a consequence of man-made events. The recent tragic bombing during the Boston Marathon illustrates the need for integration and coordination among intelligence gatherers, fusion center analysts, law enforcement agencies and local responders. Following the Boston bombing, Indiana adapted planning efforts for the events in central Indiana such as the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade and 500 Mile Race. Traffic was diverted from critical infrastructure, screening techniques were employed that clearly elevated detection protocols and heightened intelligence activities all combined to improve threat identification and risk management at one of the country's largest sporting events.

Our ongoing preparedness is on three levels: federal, state, and local. At the federal level, we work with military and non-military entities to enhance safety efforts, train, exercise and plan.

Groups like FEMA and the FBI offer resources to aid in our preparation. FEMA Region V has been responsive to the needs of the state, especially during times of emergency. The FBI is a teammate of ours in CBRNE response and radiation training. The FBI also holds an annual conference on WMDs, which IDHS promotes and attends. IDHS recently held a comprehensive planning exercise involving policy leaders from IDHS, ISDH, Indiana Board of Animal Health, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana State Police, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, State Chemist, Department of Natural Resources, Utility Regulatory Commission and Indiana National Guard's 53rd Civil Support Team to simulate an ingestion pathway from nuclear reactor radiation release and how it could affect Indiana residents and businesses. We also have established close relationships with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy to better prepare for and understand these lead federal agencies' role in a nuclear disaster.

State partners, including the Indiana State Department of Health, Indiana Department of Transportation, and Indiana National Guard regularly complement and enhance IDHS' work. We not only prepare for events in the future, but also strive to secure the everyday safety of our citizens.

Local Agencies: Key to Indiana's Efforts

Local partners are really the backbone of Indiana's efforts. When an emergency or disaster occurs, local agencies and responders are the first to experience the event and they are best equipped and trained to handle the situation. Just over a week ago, Indianapolis witnessed a horrific mass casualty event with an overturned bus returning from a week of church camp. Tragically, four individuals lost their lives but a rapid and professional response by numerous fire and emergency medical personnel treated or transported over thirty injured passengers, several hospital staffs coordinated the treatment of the injured and law enforcement continues to conduct an in-depth analysis of the crash's cause. The response by professional local responders was an example of how well they have prepared for tragedy when our communities are affected.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Red Cross also perform active roles in aiding our initiatives and furthering the overall emergency preparedness of our state. The IDHS and ISDH began the development of the Indiana Disaster Medical System, intended to provide a structure and protocols for the state to support local mass casualty response. In support of the Indiana Disaster Medical System, the ISDH is in the process of procuring a 50-bed mobile hospital to provide a medical facility for communities suffering from disasters and an operating location for medical and non-medical volunteers. The ISDH has also developed the Advance Medical Supply Unit, which contains the most common types of supplies that medical personnel on the ground may need during mass casualty response. The ISDH has also nearly completed development of the new volunteer management system, SERV-IN, which will be utilized to better manage both medical and non-medical volunteers.

The Red Cross has several internal training courses for their volunteers, which closely reflect the training provided by IDHS. These courses provide information on the effects of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism, CBRNE events, and mental health considerations during a WMD or terrorist event. This training makes Red Cross an important partner during times of emergency. Volunteers are necessary in a variety of roles during mass casualties and perhaps even more importantly, in providing long-term care and support for those visibly injured and others who are mentally traumatized.

IDHS, along with its partner organizations, casts a wide net over the State of Indiana. By coordinating activities and initiatives with federal, state, and local partners, IDHS is working diligently every day for Indiana.

Conclusion

In closing, I would like to thank Chairman Brooks, Ranking Member Payne, members of the Indiana congressional delegation in attendance, and the Members of the Subcommittee for calling this hearing today. The issues discussed here are vital to the lives not just of Hoosiers, but to all Americans. I am proud to work every day to provide for the needs of the state, and the safety of our citizens. I am committed to working with the Committee and our public safety partners to promote a safer, more secure state for all.